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(54) **A multi-spectral objective lens system having magnesium oxide and calcium fluoride lenses**

(57) Multi-spectral images are detected using a refractive objective lens system in which magnesium oxide 110 and calcium fluoride 120 lenses are used to image scenes in both the visible and infra-red spectrums. The combination of magnesium oxide and calcium fluoride results in a super-achromatic condition across visible and infra-red spectrums. This chromatically corrected spectral range includes wavelengths of between 0.4 and 5.9 microns. Combinations of magnesium oxide and calcium fluoride lenses can be used in doublet, Petzval, inverted telephoto and telephoto arrangements. Applications for the multi-spectral objective lens system include telescopes, reconnaissance plants, satellites, forwarding-looking infrared and staring sensor systems and night-vision goggles.

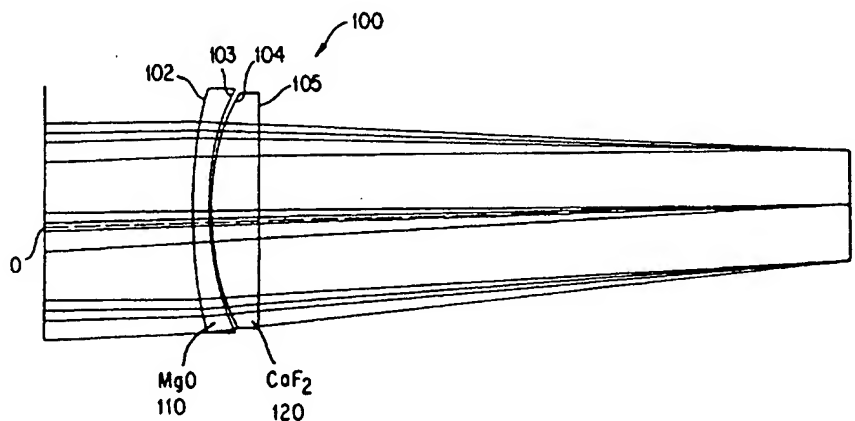


FIG.1

GB 2 307 757 A

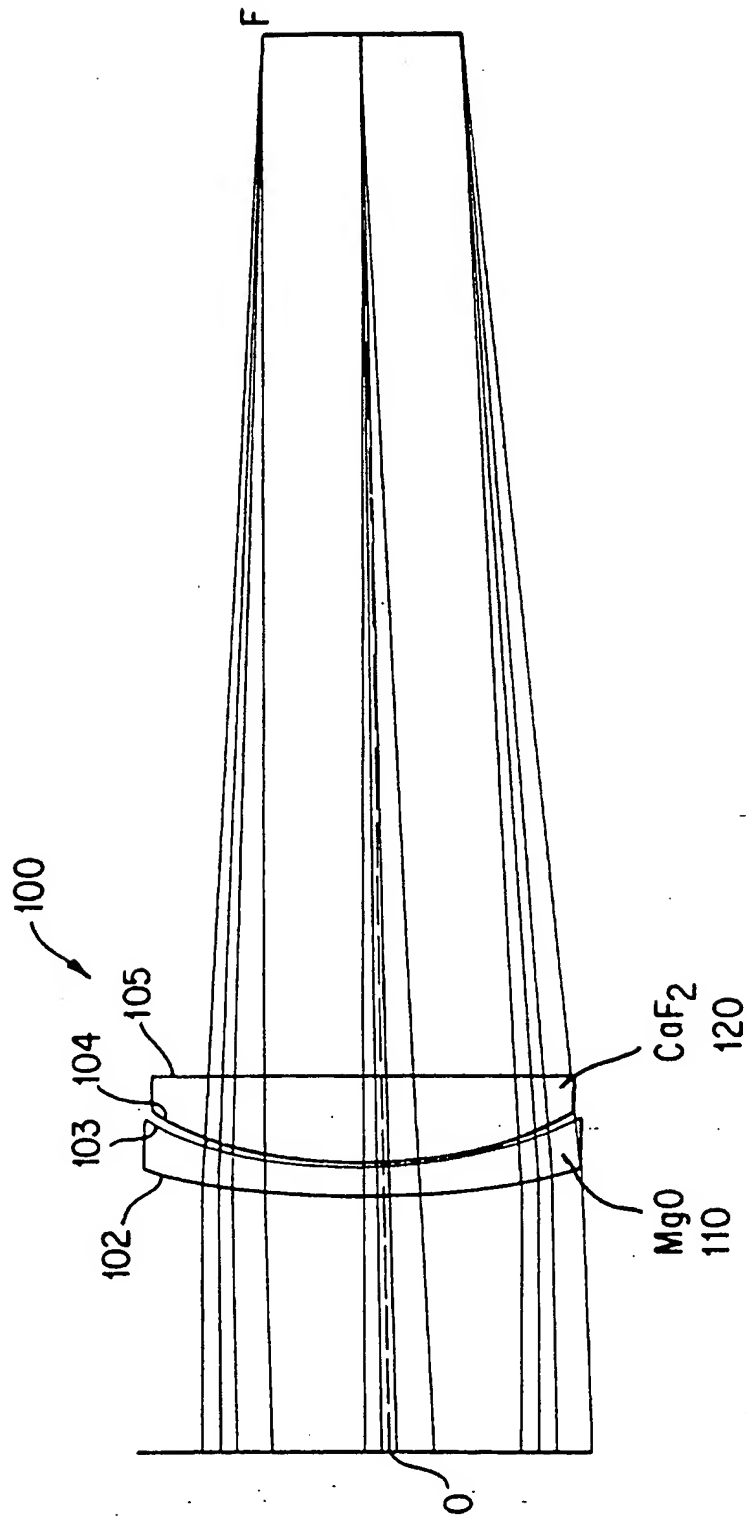


FIG.1

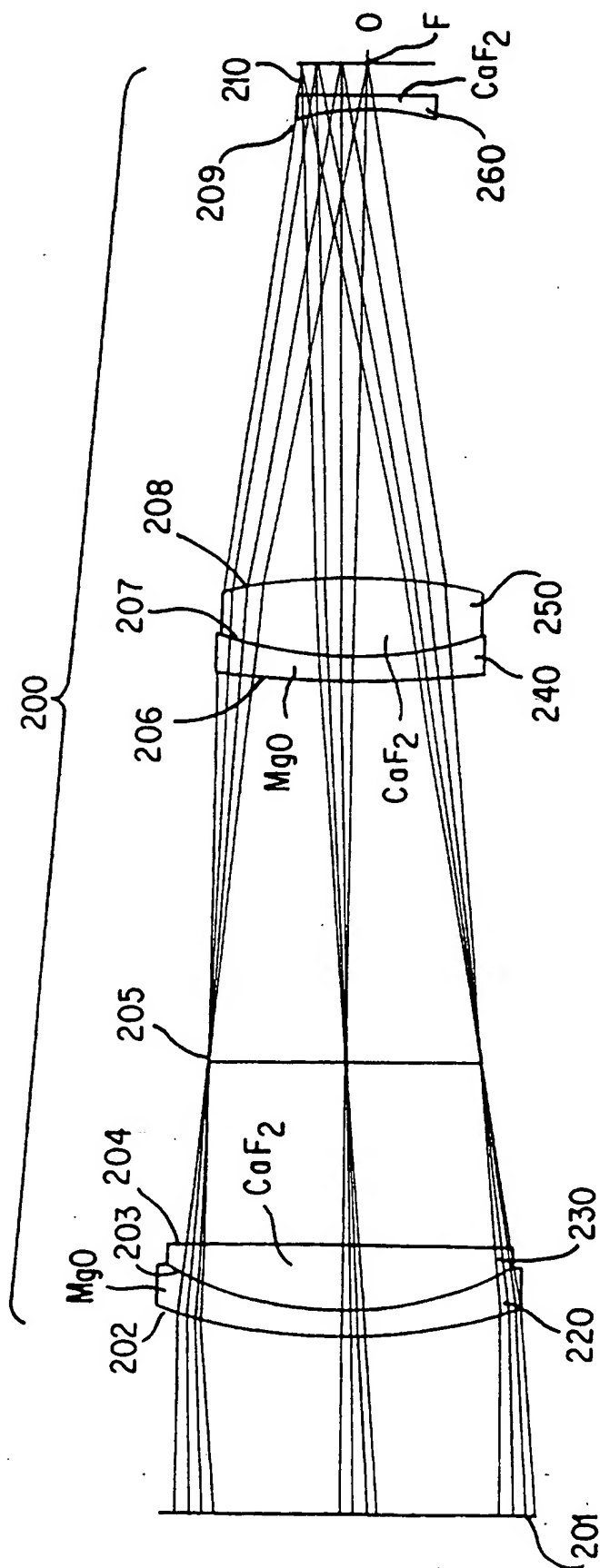


FIG. 2

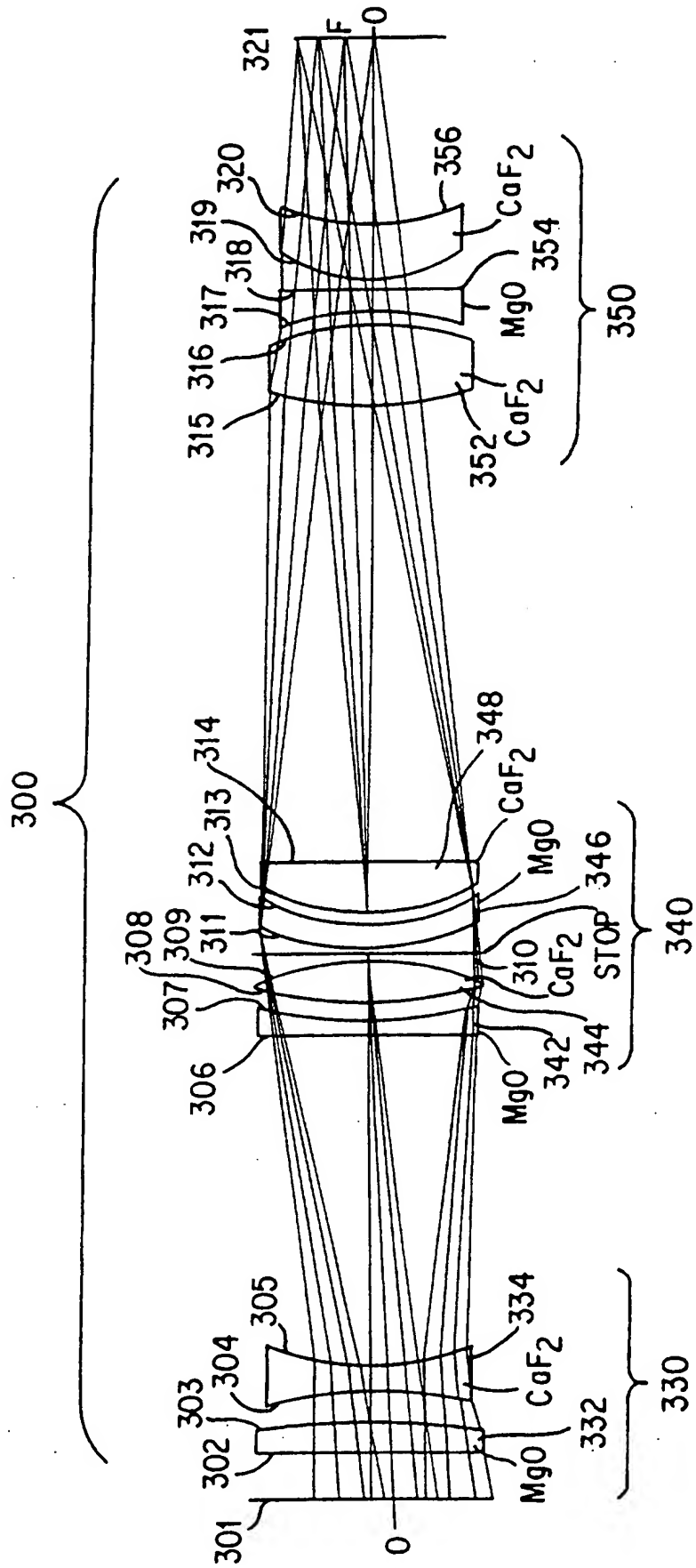


FIG. 3

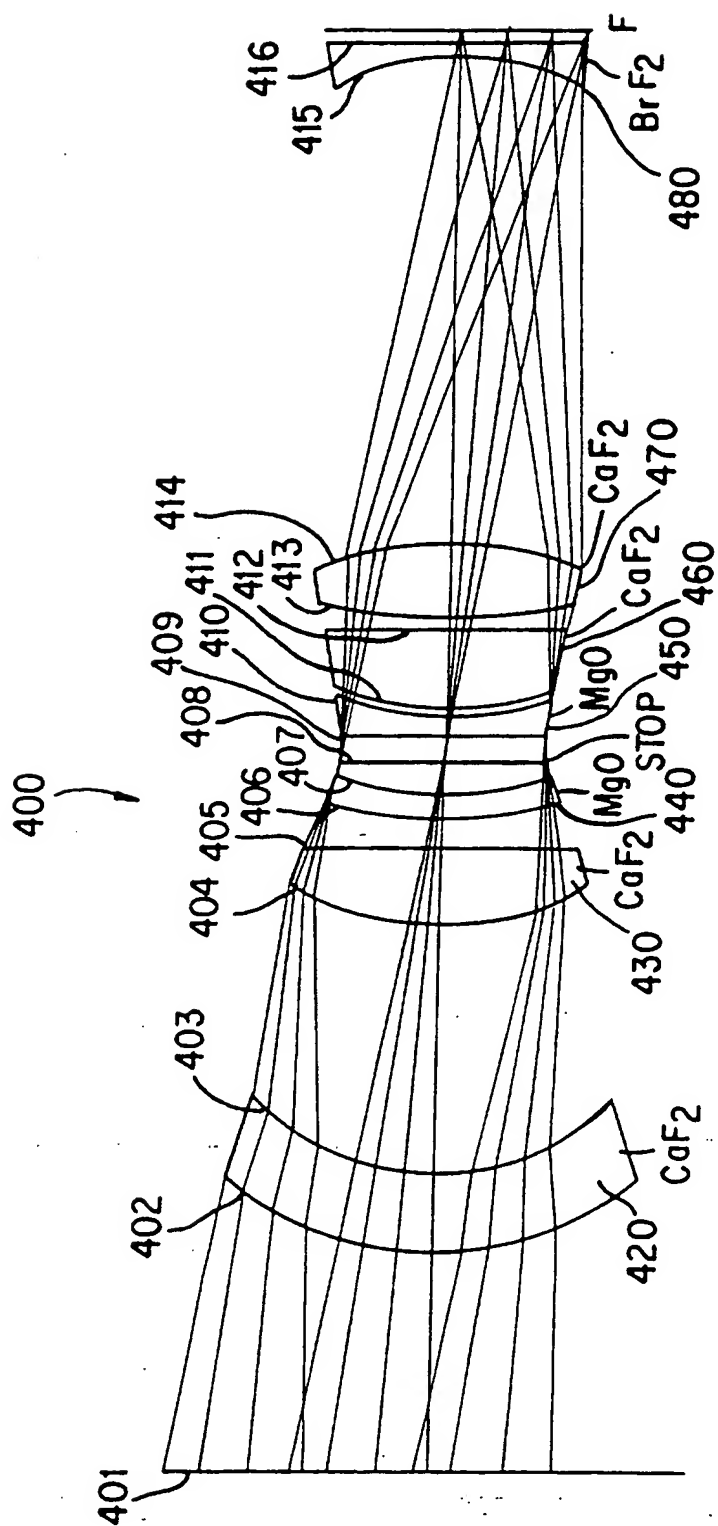


FIG. 4

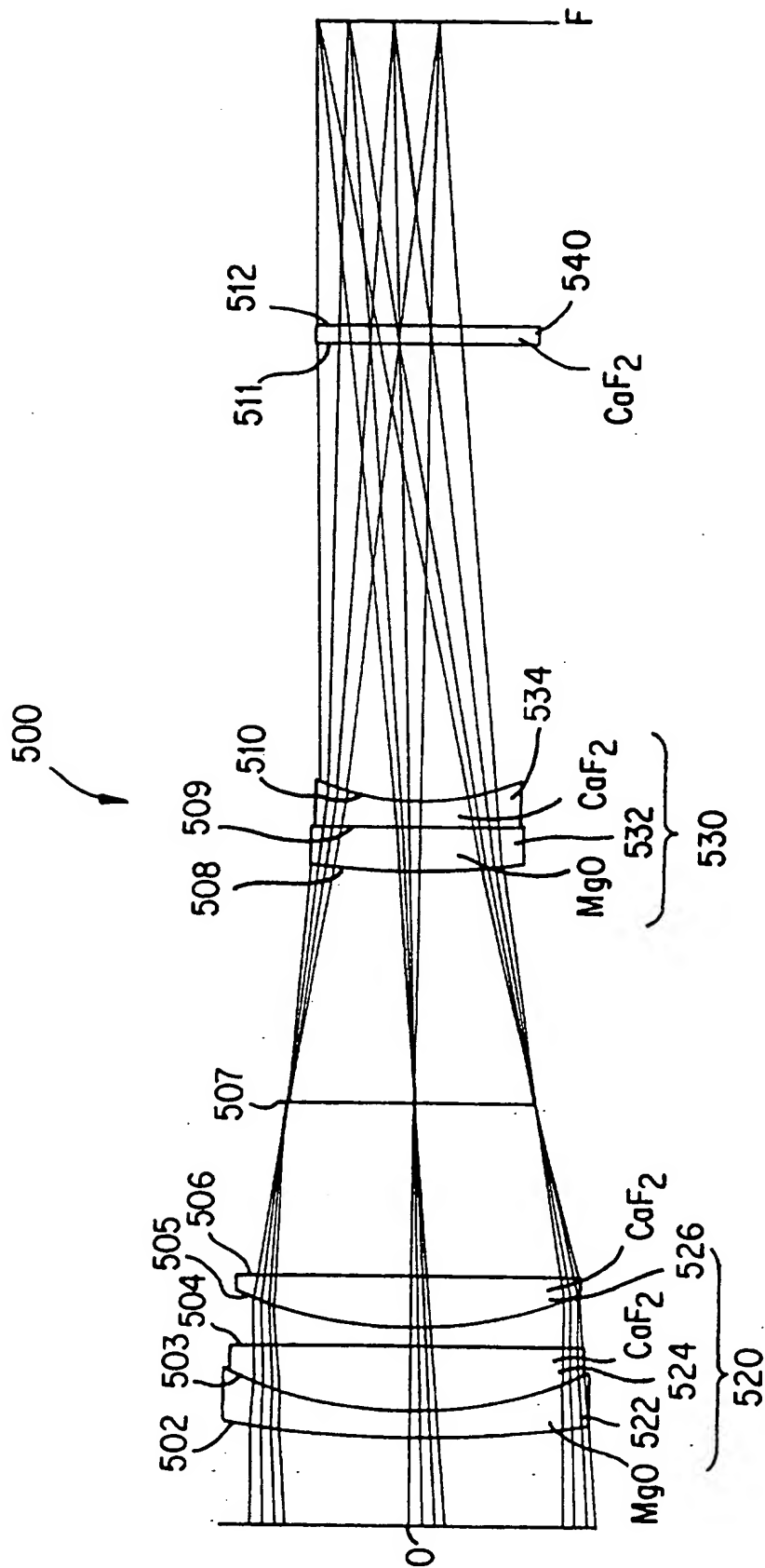


FIG. 5

Method and System for Multi-Spectral Imaging in the Visible and Infrared Spectrums

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Background of the Invention

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to the field of optics. More specifically, the present invention provides a multi-spectral objective.

Related Art

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Many imaging applications such as air-borne reconnaissance and tracking systems demand detection in both visible and infra-red spectrums. Typically, separate objectives must be used because no single objective lens system can accommodate multi-spectral images at both visible and infra-red wavelengths with adequate resolution. In particular, conventional refractive IR objectives disperse visible light, thereby, degrading image quality. Increasingly industry has been forced to less desirable reflective-type IR objectives.

What is needed is an objective lens system using refractive components that provides high-quality multi-spectral imaging in both visible and infrared spectrums.

Summary of the Invention

5 The present invention is directed to a multi-spectral objective lens system. Two materials are used to fabricate lenses in the objective lens system: magnesium oxide (MgO) and calcium fluoride (CaF₂). According to a first embodiment of the invention, a magnesium oxide lens and a calcium fluoride lens, in any order, form a doublet which images wavelengths in the visible and infra-red spectrums. Further embodiments include combinations of MgO and CaF₂ lenses in different objective lens designs including Petzval, inverted telephoto, and telephoto arrangements.

10 Thus, the inventors have discovered that the combination of magnesium oxide, only recently made available in a pure crystal form, and calcium fluoride can be used to fabricate an objective lens for imaging objects in both the visible and infra-red spectrums. The combination of magnesium oxide and calcium fluoride results in a super-achromatic condition, that is color correction across the visible and infra-red spectrums. This chromatically-corrected spectral range includes wavelengths between approximately 0.4 and 5.9 microns which covers medium-wave IR (MWIR), short-wave IR (IR), and the near-IR/visible windows.

15 The objective lens according to the present invention is well-suited for telescopes, reconnaissance planes, satellites, forward-looking IR (FLIR) and staring sensor systems, night-vision goggles, and other optic and/or electro-optic detection systems in visible and/or IR applications.

20 Further features and advantages of the present invention, as well as the structure and operation of various embodiments of the present invention, are described in detail below with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Brief Description of the Figures

5 The present invention is described with reference to the accompanying drawings. In the drawings, like reference numbers typically indicate identical or functionally similar elements. Additionally, the left-most digit(s) of a reference number identifies the drawing in which the reference number first appears.

In the Drawings:

10 Figure 1 is a multi-spectral objective lens system in a doublet arrangement according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a multi-spectral objective lens system in a Petzval arrangement according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

15 Figure 3 is a multi-spectral objective lens system in an inverted telephoto arrangement according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a multi-spectral objective lens system in an inverted telephoto arrangement according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

20 Figure 5 is a multi-spectral objective lens system in a telephoto arrangement according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Overview

25 The present invention is directed to a multi-spectral objective lens system. Two materials are used to fabricate lenses in the objective lens system: magnesium oxide (MgO) and calcium fluoride (CaF₂). A doublet consisting of a first lens formed from magnesium oxide and a second lens formed from calcium fluoride images wavelengths in the visible and infra-red

spectrums. Combinations of MgO and CaF₂ lenses are used in different compound objective lens designs including Petzval, inverted telephoto, and telephoto arrangements. Previously, there has been no suggestion of using both MgO and CaF₂ lenses in a multi-spectral lens combination. The two materials were incompatible for forming a common objective lens system imaging visible and IR light. Magnesium oxide was practically limited to IR light. For example, MgO produced in a hot press form by Kodak under the trade name IRTRAN 5 lacks sufficient homogeneity or clarity for use in the visible spectral range. Magnesium oxide only recently has been made available in a pure crystal form. For example, Commercial Crystal Laboratories, Inc., a Florida corporation, now supplies MgO crystals. The inventors have discovered that such a MgO crystal can be used as an optics material for imaging visible and IR light.

The inventors have further discovered that the combination of magnesium oxide and calcium fluoride, in any order, can be used to fabricate an objective lens for imaging objects in both the visible and infra-red spectrums. The inventors found based on the Abbe values for MgO and CaF₂ lenses that a super-achromatic condition is achieved for this combination of materials superior to other combinations of lens material. The Abbe value is a constant of an optical medium that describes the ratio of refractivity to dispersion. A difference in this ratio is necessary to achieve an achromatic condition. Two materials having a large difference in the Abbe value is an advantage in achieving an achromatic condition. The inventors computed an Abbe value for MgO and CaF₂ lenses for three spectrums, 0.4 - 0.7, 1.4 - 2.2, and 3.4 to 5.0 microns. The computed Abbe values for the three spectrums indicates that a super-achromatic condition is achieved by the MgO and CaF₂ combination which achromatizes all three spectrums simultaneously.

Thus, the inventors have discovered that the combination of magnesium oxide and calcium fluoride results in a super-achromatic condition, that is color correction across the visible and infra-red spectrums. This chromatically-corrected spectral range includes wavelengths between approximately 0.4 and 5.9 microns, and in particular, between 0.55 and 5.35 microns, which covers medium-wave IR (MWIR), short-wave IR (IR), and near-IR/visible windows.

The objective lens according to the present invention is well-suited for telescopes, reconnaissance planes, satellites, forward-looking IR (FLIR) and staring sensor systems, night-vision goggles, and other optic and/or electro-optic detection systems in visible and/or IR applications.

Doublet Lens Design

FIG. 1 illustrates an objective lens system 100 according to a first embodiment of the present invention. Objective lens system 100 provides multi-spectral imaging in both the visible and infra-red spectrums. The objective lens system 100 consists of a first lens element 110 and a second lens element 120. The first and second lens elements 110 and 120 are arranged to form a doublet, i.e. a classic flint forward doublet, disposed along a common optical axis O. The doublet focuses multiple wavelengths at a common focal plane F. The first lens element 120 is made of magnesium oxide (MgO), i.e. a MgO crystal. The second lens element 130 is made of calcium fluoride (CaF₂).

As discussed above, the objective lens system 100 provides a super-achromatic condition for visible through infra-red wavelengths including, but not limited to, the range between 0.4 and 5.9 μm . The prescription for one example of objective lens system 100 is compiled in Table 1 below. In this example, the effective focal length is 12.0034 inches, the f-number (F/#) is 9.3605, and the field of view angle is four degrees. The conic constant equals zero. The index of refraction for the MgO material ranges from 1.7405 to 1.6240 for wavelengths between 0.55 to 5.35 μm (inclusive). The index of refraction for the CaF₂ material ranges from 1.4348 to 1.39460 for wavelengths between 0.55 to 5.35 μm (inclusive).

TABLE I

Surface	Radius (in.)	Thickness (in.)	Material	Diameter (in.)
102	3.377785	0.1330925	MgO	1.756062
103	2.155341	0.01330925	air	1.707015
104	2.086584	0.3327312	CaF ₂	1.709893
105	134.0277	4	air	1.685772

Petzval Type Lens Design

FIG. 2 illustrates an objective lens system 200 according to a second embodiment of the present invention. Objective lens system 200 is arranged in a Petzval type of lens design and provides multi-spectral imaging in both the visible and infra-red spectrums. The objective lens system 200 includes first through fifth lens elements, 220 to 260, disposed along a common optical axis O. In one doublet, first lens element 220 is made of magnesium oxide (MgO). The second lens element 230 is made of calcium fluoride (CaF₂). Likewise, in a second doublet, third lens element 240 is made of MgO and fourth lens element 250 is made of CaF₂. A stop or physical aperture 205 is included between the two doublets, that is between lens elements 230 and 240. An additional fifth lens element 260 is added to flatten the typically curved Petzval focal plane.

As discussed above, the objective lens system 200 provides a super-achromatic condition for visible and infra-red wavelengths. This includes, but is not limited to, the range between 0.4 and 5.9 μm . The prescription for one example of objective lens system 200 is compiled in Table 2 below. In this example, the effective focal length is 5.2894 inches, the f-number (F/#) is 3.2057, and the field of view angle is eight degrees. The conic constant equals zero except for surface 209 which has a constant equal to -5.7132. The index of refraction for the MgO material ranges from 1.7405 to 1.6240 for wavelengths

between 0.55 to 5.35 μm (inclusive). The index of refraction for the CaF_2 material ranges from 1.4348 to 1.39460 for wavelengths between 0.55 to 5.35 μm (inclusive).

TABLE 2

Surface	Radius (in.)	Thickness (in.)	Material	Diameter (in.)
202	2.75	0.1466	MgO	1.84982
203	1.689	0.3666	CaF_2	1.76331
204	-25.709	0.98825		1.74089
205	infinity	2.073		1.405998
206	4.289	0.1466	MgO	1.383331
207	1.9617	0.43995	CaF_2	1.354132
208	-2.925	2.529		1.347788
209	-1.1957	0.0733	CaF_2	0.7366471
210	infinity	0.1787855		0.73747998

Inverted Telephoto Type Lens Designs

FIG. 3 illustrates an objective lens system 300 according to a third embodiment of the present invention. Objective lens system 300 is arranged in an inverted telephoto type of lens design and provides multi-spectral imaging in both the visible and infra-red spectrums. The objective lens system 300 includes three lens groupings 330, 340, and 350. These three groups include first through ninth lens elements, 332, 334, 342, 344, 346, 348, 352, 354, and 356 disposed along a common optical axis O.

In the first group 330, first lens element 332 is made of magnesium oxide (MgO) and the second lens element 334 is made of calcium fluoride (CaF_2). Likewise, in the second group 340, third and fifth lens elements 342, 346 are made of MgO . Fourth and

sixth lens elements 344, 348 are made of CaF_2 . In the third group 350, the seventh and ninth lens elements 352, 356 are made of CaF_2 and surround the eighth lens element 354 made of MgO . A stop or physical aperture 310 is included between the two doublets, that is between fourth and fifth lens elements 344 and 346 as shown.

As discussed above, the objective lens system 300 provides a super-achromatic condition for visible and infra-red wavelengths. This includes, but is not limited to, the range between 0.4 and 5.9 μm . The prescription for one example of objective lens system 300 is compiled in Table 3 below. In this example, the effective focal length is 6.0676 inches, the f-number ($F/\#$) is 3.7923, and the field of view angle is 22 degrees. The conic constant equals zero. The index of refraction for the MgO material ranges from 1.7405 to 1.6240 for wavelengths between 0.55 to 5.35 μm (inclusive). The index of refraction for the CaF_2 material ranges from 1.4348 to 1.39460 for wavelengths between 0.55 to 5.35 μm (inclusive).

TABLE 3

Surface	Radius (in.)	Thickness (in.)	Material	Diameter (in.)
302	infinity	0.48	MgO	3.295302
303	-12.37896	0.5019428		3.211953
304	-5.121251	0.3428571	CaF_2	2.978004
305	3.45979	5.023917		2.798337
306	-114.467	0.2742857	MgO	3.164553
307	6.720905	0.2468571		3.191547
308	5.813471	0.6171428	CaF_2	3.335289
309	-4.305556	0.1028571		3.34016
310	infinity	0.1028571		3.26582
311	3.75086	0.3428571	MgO	3.188348
312	2.80682	0.2057143		3.036389

313	3.050408	0.7542857	CaF ₂	3.13994
314	66.94763	6.843282		3.129624
315	4.348838	1.234286	CaF ₂	2.962569
316	-4.054665	0.2057143		2.794528
317	-3.500591	0.2742857	MgO	2.654563
318	19.01012	0.2057143		2.642477
319	2.378518	0.8228571	CaF ₂	2.680185
320	2.621247	2.898204		2.432032

FIG. 4 illustrates an objective lens system 400 according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention. Objective lens system 400 is arranged in another inverted telephoto type of lens design and provides multi-spectral imaging in both the visible and infra-red spectrums. The objective lens system 400 includes first through seventh lens elements, 420 to 480 disposed along a common optical axis O. First, second, fifth, and sixth lens elements, 420, 430, 460, and 470, respectively, are made of CaF₂. Inner third and fourth lens elements 440, 450 are made of MgO. The seventh lens element 480 is made of barium fluoride (BrF₂).

A stop or physical aperture 408 is included between the two MgO lens elements 440, 450 as shown. The first lens element 420 and the seventh lens element 480 combine to produce an anastigmatic image across the field.

As discussed above, the objective lens system 400 provides a super-achromatic condition for visible and infra-red wavelengths. This includes, but is not limited to, the range between 0.4 and 5.9 μm . The prescription for one example of objective lens system 400 is compiled in Table 4 below. In this example, the effective focal length is 6.1421 inches, the f-number (F/#) is 2.7298, and the field of view angle is 22 degrees. The conic constant equals zero except for surface 415 which has a constant equal to -0.4. The index of refraction for the MgO material ranges from 1.7405 to 1.6240 for wavelengths between 0.55

to 5.35 μm (inclusive). The index of refraction for the CaF_2 material ranges from 1.4348 to 1.39460 for wavelengths between 0.55 to 5.35 μm (inclusive).

TABLE 4

Surface	Radius (in.)	Thickness (in.)	Material	Diameter (in.)
402	2.844668	0.7	CaF_2	3.700449
403	2.202348	2.2		3.182788
404	2.341079	0.7136391	CaF_2	2.664106
405	-75.59034	0.2721544		2.497632
406	4.14811	0.2	MgO	2.12412
407	2.736832	0.3		1.928946
408	infinity	0.2391751		1.873357
409	141.6627	0.2	MgO	1.88868
410	3.109891	0.05		1.959391
411	2.938415	0.72	CaF_2	2.031865
412	173.6085	0.1		2.229428
413	4.914444	0.7	CaF_2	2.358269
414	-3.305643	4.364573		2.425191
415	-2.049313	0.1	Barium Fluoride	2.245672
416	infinity	0.09370708		2.392193

Telephoto Type Lens Design

FIG. 5 illustrates an objective lens system 500 according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention. Objective lens system 500 is arranged in a telephoto type of lens

design and provides multi-spectral imaging across the visible and infra-red spectrums. The objective lens system 500 includes three lens groupings 520, 530, and 540. These three groups include first through sixth lens elements, 524, 526, 532, 534, and 540 disposed along a common optical axis O.

In the first group 520, the first lens element 522 is made of magnesium oxide (MgO). The second and third lens elements 524, 526 are made of calcium fluoride (CaF₂). In the second group 530, fourth and fifth lens elements 532, 534 are made of MgO and CaF₂, respectively. The third group 540 consists of a single CaF₂ lens element 540. A stop or physical aperture 507 is included between the first two lens groupings 520, 530 that is between third and fourth lens elements 526 and 532 as shown.

As discussed above, the objective lens system 500 provides a super-achromatic condition for visible and infra-red wavelengths. This includes, but is not limited to, the range between 0.4 and 5.9 μm . The prescription for one example of objective lens system 500 is compiled in Table 5 below. In this example, the effective focal length is 9.1667 inches, the f-number (F/#) is 5.5556, and the field of view angle is eight degrees. The conic constant equals zero for all surfaces except for surface 511 where the conic constant equals -5.7132. The index of refraction for the MgO material ranges from 1.7405 to 1.6240 for wavelengths between 0.55 to 5.35 μm (inclusive). The index of refraction for the CaF₂ material ranges from 1.4348 to 1.39460 for wavelengths between 0.55 to 5.35 μm (inclusive).

TABLE 5

Surface	Radius (in.)	Thickness (in.)	Material	Diameter (in.)
502	7.320726	0.1466	MgO	1.92148
503	2.187264	0.3666	CaF ₂	1.865819
504	-15.85229	0.1		1.859174
505	2.269012	0.3	CaF ₂	1.820605

506	-345.7257	1.0		1.784194
507	infinity	1.3		1.30319
508	4.696846	0.25	MgO	1.127906
509	17.5268	0.15	CaF ₂	1.088754
510	1.376359	2.529		1.040998
511	infinity	0.1	CaF ₂	1.182727
512	infinity	1.756735		1.186851

Tables 1 to 5 provide specific prescription data in examples of objective lenses systems 100 to 500. It would be apparent to one skilled in the art given this description that different values can be substituted within design tolerance limits.

Simulations testing each of the above objective lens systems 100 to 500 in a range from .55 to 5.35 μm . indicate high image-quality performance is achieved beyond commercial design expectation limits for visible and IR objectives. The paraxial focal chromatic shift is on the order (i.e. within a factor of 2) of the diffraction limit. Likewise, the diffraction encircled energy is nearly diffraction limited. The fraction of encircled energy for various field points is on the order of the maximum diffraction limit (i.e. within a factor of 2) - even for radii less than 6 microns. Finally, the modulus of the optical transfer function (MTF) taken over the .55 to 5.35 μm . range demonstrates a quality image is obtained. For example, the MTF for various field points remained greater than 0.1 even at a spatial frequency of 100 cycles per millimeter.

CLAIMS

1. A multi-spectral objective lens system for imaging light in a wavelength range which includes visible and infrared wavelengths, comprising:
 - a first lens made of magnesium oxide; and
 - a second lens made of calcium fluoride.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the wavelength range includes approximately 0.55 to 5.35 μm wavelengths.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the wavelength range includes medium-wave infra-red, short-wave infra-red, near-infra-red, and visible wavelengths.
4. The system of any of the preceding claims, wherein said first lens and said second lens focus visible and infra-red light.
5. The system of any of the preceding claims, wherein said first lens and said second lens chromatically correct visible and infra-red light.
6. The system of any of the preceding claims, wherein:
 - said index of refraction for said magnesium oxide in said first lens is within a range of approximately 1.7 to 1.6 for wavelengths of light at or between approximately 0.55 to 5.35 μm , and
 - said index of refraction for said calcium fluoride in said second lens is within a range from approximately 1.4 to 1.3 for wavelengths of light at or between approximately 0.55 to 5.35 μm .

7. The system of any of the preceding claims, wherein said first lens has first and second surfaces and said second lens has third and fourth surfaces, said first lens and said second lens having the following prescription:

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Surface	Radius (in.)	Thickness (in.)	Material
first	3.377785	0.1330925	MgO
second	2.155341	0.01330925	air
third	2.086584	0.3327312	CaF ₂
fourth	134.0277	4	air

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8. The system of any of the preceding claims, wherein said first lens and said second lens are included in a compound objective lens assembly.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein said compound lens assembly includes at least one of a classic flint forward doublet, Petzval, inverted telephoto, and telephoto arrangement.

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10. The system of any of the preceding claims, wherein said first lens is made of a substantially pure magnesium oxide crystal.

11. The system of any of the preceding claims, wherein said first lens and said second lens are disposed along a common optical axis between an object side and a focal plane side, said first lens being disposed between said object side and said second lens.

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12. The system of any of claims 1 to 10, wherein said first lens and said second lens are disposed along a common optical axis between an object side and a focal plane side, said first lens being disposed between said second lens and said focal plane side.

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13. The system of any of the preceding claims, wherein said first lens and said second lens comprise a doublet.

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14. The system of any of claims 1 to 12, further comprising:

a third lens made of magnesium oxide; and

a fourth lens made of calcium fluoride; wherein said first lens, said second lens, said third lens, and said fourth lens are arranged along a common optical axis according to a Petzval design.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said first lens has first and second surfaces, said second lens has third and fourth surfaces, said third lens has fifth and sixth surfaces, said fourth lens has seventh and eighth surfaces; said first to fourth lenses having the following prescription:

Surface	Radius (in.)	Thickness (in.)	Material
first	2.75	0.1466	MgO
second, third	1.689	0.3666	CaF ₂
fourth	-25.709	0.98825	
fifth	4.289	0.1466	MgO
sixth, seventh	1.9617	0.43995	CaF ₂
eighth	-2.925	2.529	

16. The system of any of claims 1 to 12, further comprising:

a third lens made of magnesium oxide;
 a fourth lens made of calcium fluoride;
 a fifth lens made of magnesium oxide;
 a sixth lens made of calcium fluoride;
 a seventh lens made of calcium fluoride;
 an eighth lens made of magnesium oxide; and
 a ninth lens made of calcium fluoride;

wherein said first to ninth lenses are arranged along a common optical axis according to an inverted telephoto design.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein said first to ninth lenses have first to eighteenth lens surfaces, respectively, according to the following prescription:

Surface	Radius (in.)	Thickness (in.)	Material
first	infinity	0.48	MgO
second	-12.37896	0.5019428	
third	-5.121251	0.3428571	CaF ₂
fourth	3.45979	5.023917	
fifth	-114.467	0.2742857	MgO
sixth	6.720905	0.2468571	
seventh	5.813471	0.6171428	CaF ₂
eighth	-4.305556	0.1028571	
ninth	3.75086	0.3428571	MgO
tenth	2.80682	0.2057143	
eleventh	3.050408	0.7542857	CaF ₂
twelfth	66.94763	6.843282	
thirteenth	4.348838	1.234286	CaF ₂
fourteenth	-4.054665	0.2057143	
fifteenth	-3.500591	0.2742857	MgO
sixteenth	19.01012	0.2057143	
seventeenth	2.378518	0.8228571	CaF ₂
eighteenth	2.621247	2.898204	

18. A multi-spectral objective lens system for imaging light in a wavelength range which includes visible and infrared wavelengths, comprising:

- first and second lenses made of calcium fluoride;
 third and fourth lenses made of magnesium oxide; and
 fifth and sixth lenses made of calcium fluoride;
 wherein, said first to sixth lenses are arranged along a common optical axis according to an inverted telephoto design.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein said first to sixth lenses have first to twelfth lens surfaces, respectively, according to the following prescription:

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Surface	Radius (in.)	Thickness (in.)	Material
first	2.844668	0.7	CaF ₂
second	2.202348	2.2	
third	2.341079	0.7136391	CaF ₂
fourth	-75.59034	0.2721544	
fifth	4.14811	0.2	MgO
sixth	2.736832	0.3	
seventh	141.6627	0.2	MgO
eighth	3.109891	0.05	
ninth	2.938415	0.72	CaF ₂
tenth	173.6085	0.1	
eleventh	4.914444	0.7	CaF ₂
twelfth	-3.305643	4.364573	

25 20. The system of any of claims 1 to 12, further comprising;

a third lens made of calcium fluoride;

a fourth lens made of magnesium oxide;

a fifth lens made of calcium fluoride; and

30 a sixth lens made of calcium fluoride;

wherein said first to sixth lenses are arranged along a common optical axis according to a telephoto lens design.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein said first to sixth lenses have first to tenth lens surfaces, respectively,
35 according to the following prescription:

Surface	Radius (in.)	Thickness (in.)	Material
first	7.320726	0.1466	MgO
second	2.187264	0.3666	CaF ₂
third	-15.85229	0.1	
fourth	2.269012	0.3	CaF ₂
fifth	-345.7257	1.0	
sixth	4.696846	0.25	MgO
seventh	17.5268	0.15	CaF ₂
eighth	1.376359	2.529	
ninth	infinity	0.1	CaF ₂
tenth	infinity	1.756735	

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22. A method for detecting visible and infra-red images comprising the steps of:

optically coupling at least one magnesium oxide lens and at least one calcium fluoride lens; and

focusing light passing through said at least one magnesium oxide lens and said at least one calcium fluoride lens at a common focal plane to obtain visible and infra-red images.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of chromatically correcting said light passing through said at least one magnesium oxide and calcium fluoride lenses.

24. A multi-spectral objective lens system, comprising:
a magnesium oxide lens; and
a calcium fluoride lens.

25. A multi-spectral objective lens system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any of the examples shown in the accompanying drawings.

26. A method for detecting visible and infra-red images substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any of the examples shown in the accompanying drawings.



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Claims searched: 1-26

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Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.O): G2J (JB7CX, JB7R3)

Int Cl (Ed.6): G02B

Other: Online : WPI, JAPIO

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	EP 0467240 A1 (SANTA BARBARA) see especially column 2 lines 15-24	1,22 and 24 at least

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.
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A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.